

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 28th February 1903.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—	
Nil.		Employment of Musalmans in the Calcutta Municipality ...	173
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Sale of adulterated food in Calcutta ...	174
(a)—Police—		The Baduria Municipality in the 24-Parganas district ...	ib.
Tigers in the Khulna district ...	169	Water-scarcity in a village in the Dacca district ...	ib.
Budmashes in the Sitakundu mela ...	ib.	(f)—Questions affecting the land—	
Thefts and dacoities in Bengal and Assam ...	ib.	Oppression by Settlement Officers in the Sonthal Parganas ...	174
A case of dacoity in the Gaya district ...	ib.	The quarrel between Messrs. Watson and Company and their tenants ...	175
Prostitutes violating public decency in Chittagong town ...	170	Incomplete survey and settlement in the Midnapore district ...	ib.
A complaint against chaukidars and a panchayet... ib.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
The Calcutta police ...	ib.	Railway extension in India ...	175
Gundas in Basirhat in the 24-Parganas district ...	ib.	Steamer complaints ...	ib.
The Calcutta police ...	ib.	(h)—General—	
Blackmail levied by personating public servants ...	171	Burdwan papers not invited to the Burdwan Installation Darbar ...	176
A serious charge against the Kalna police ...	ib.	Mr. Badshah as Excise Commissioner of Bengal ...	ib.
Babu Manmatha Nath Ghosh, Deputy Magistrate of Rajshahi ...	ib.	Babu Nriya Gopal Mukharji's agricultural researches ...	ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Mr. Badshah, Post-Master General, Bengal ...	ib.
The Pingna Munsifi in the Mymensingh district ...	171	The Calcutta Collectorship ...	177
The Magistrate of Cuttack and Babu Brajendra Kumar Sil ...	ib.	Mr. Badshah ...	ib.
A boy punished for violating a police order in Gaya ...	ib.	III.—LEGISLATION.	
The 1st Munsif of Khulna ...	172	The Tea Cess Bill ...	177
Serious charges against a Munsif ...	ib.	IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
Disparity between two sentences ...	ib.	The present condition of the Native Princes ...	178
Probable vacancies in High Court Judgeships ...	ib.	V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
(c)—Jails—		The condition of the Contai khasmahal raiyats ...	178
Nil.			
(d)—Education—			
A rumoured communication from the Government of India on high education ...	172		
The Superintendent of the Dacca Madrassa ...	ib.		
Mr. Pedler and the Patna Collegiate School ...	173		
The last B Class examination in Dacca town ...	ib.		
The Vice-Chancellor's Convocation speech ...	ib.		
The Contai High English School ...	ib.		
Mr. Raleigh's Convocation speech ...	ib.		

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

"Where are we to stand?"	...	179
Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech	...	181
Lord Curzon	...	182
Use of Mr. Phipps' money	...	ib.
Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech	...	ib.
Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech	...	184
Collection of funds for proclamation festivities in Nadia	...	185
Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech	...	ib.
The Viceroy's Chamber of Commerce speech	...	186
Mr. Bell, Magistrate of Backergunge	...	ib.
Mr. Fisher, District Judge of Rajshahi	...	ib.
The case of the late Sharistadar of the Bogra Collectorate	...	187

Page.

Page.

URIYA PAPERS.

The weather in Orissa	...	187
The health of Orissa	...	ib.
The new Manager of the Puri Temple	...	ib.
The Puri Temple Commission	...	ib.
Price of rice in the Balasore district	...	ib.
A machine for trapping tigers	...	ib.
The Bengal Government's action on the Universities Commission's Report	...	188
The question of the proposed Public Library and Town Hall in Cuttack town	...	ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 19th February complains of widespread depredations of tigers in the Mulghar, Utkul and surrounding villages in the Khulna district. If the present state of things continues for sometime, the tigers will not leave a single cow living in the villages. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the matter.

KHULNA,
Feb. 19th, 1903.

2. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 19th February says that every year a number of budmashes gather in the Sitakundu *mela* with the sole object of indulging in drunken revelries and amorous freaks, and outraging the modesty of young women. Last year a number of educated young men desired to volunteer their services for the purpose of suppressing this evil. It is hoped that these young men will do the work this year. The Magistrate, who holds charge of the *mela*, should expel every suspected character from it.

JYOTI,
Feb. 19th, 1903.

3. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th February has received the following reports of thefts and dacoities from different parts of the province:—

HITAVADI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

Thefts and dacoities in Bengal and Assam.

(1) Thefts and dacoities are still extremely rife in the Hooghly district. There was a dacoity on the 2nd February last in the house of Kshetra Mohan Sadhukhan of Kandadanga. On the following night there was another dacoity in the house of Narayan Chandra Shaha of Mirjapur, in which property worth Rs. 1,281 was carried away. On the 2nd February a number of thieves broke down the front door of the house of Rakhal Das Palit of Mondlai in Pandua thana. On the 4th February some thieves entered the house of Kangali Charan Banik by a hole made in the roof and took away a quantity of *ghee* and flour. There were also five or six cases of dacoity in several parts of the district.

(2) A cash-box was stolen from the bungalow of Mr. Ransom, District Judge of Chittagong. The thief has not yet been traced.

(3) On the night of the 27th January last, there was a dacoity on a tradesman's cart near Kadmapul on the road between Panighata and Nuxalbari in the Darjeeling district. The dacoits took away property worth seven to eight hundred rupees.

(4) Within a month there have been three or four cases of theft near Khairpur within the jurisdiction of the Habiganj thana in the Sylhet district in Assam. In the theft in the house of Jay Kisor Das of Barikandi, jewellery and other valuables worth Rs. 1,400 were taken away; and in that in the house of Golak Pal of Chaul property worth Rs. 500 was carried away.

(5) Within the last two weeks there have been three dacoities in Bhadreswar, Mirjapur and Singur respectively in the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district. In the Mirjapur case property worth Rs. 1,300 was carried away. Two dacoities occurred in the same part of the district in January last.

HITAVADI

4. The same paper says that the two dacoits, who were convicted of dacoity in the house of Barhui Teli of the Gaya district on the 20th April 1902, and sentenced to ten years' imprisonment each by the Sessions Judge of Gaya, have been acquitted by the High Court, because there was not sufficient evidence against them. The police arrested the accused, the Sessions Judge convicted them, the High Court pointed out the mistake of the Sessions Judge, and let off the accused. So far so good, for the ends of justice have been met. The case put some money into the coffers of the State by the sale of court-fee stamps and also into the pockets of the legal practitioners. But what good did the trial do to the aggrieved man who was robbed by the dacoits of all he had, and whose wife, sisters and daughters suffered ill-treatment at the dacoits' hands? When will Government take steps to protect the life and property of its subjects whom it has deprived of the means of self-defence by taking away from them the privilege of keeping fire-arms?

A case of dacoity in the Gaya district.

SANSODHINI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

5. The *Sansodhini* [Chittagong] of the 20th February says that when the prostitutes serving under a Chittagong theatrical company come to bathe in a tank situated in a respectable quarter in Chittagong town, quite a gathering of school-boys and common people is seen on its banks. This is a danger to the public morality of the place and is a serious violation of public decency. A man was once fined Rs. 10 by the authorities of the town for having violated public decency by committing a nuisance in an open place, and a prostitute was once prohibited from bathing in a local tank on a representation made by this newspaper. It is hoped that in the present case the authorities will similarly prohibit the bathing of the prostitutes in a public manner.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

6. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 20th February, writing from Shaikhpura in the Jessore district, complains of the neglect of their duty of watch and ward by the village chaukidars and of the oppression which is being committed by the collecting panchayet by increasing the chaukidari tax of the villagers every year.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

7. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st February says that on the night of the Coronation illumination in Calcutta a constable of the Calcutta police, named Samarjit Singh, arrested one Jyotis Chandra Basu on the plea of drunkenness. The case was tried by Mr. T. N. Mallik, Honorary Magistrate. The Magistrate found in the course of the trial that, though there was no evidence of drunkenness against the accused, he was still detained in *hajat* by Inspector Marklew. The Magistrate also found from the evidence of Inspector Hamilton that the Deputy Commissioner had altered the original charge against the accused to one under section 353 of the Penal Code. The complainant deposed before the Magistrate that he had arrested the accused because the latter was going to strike him. The Magistrate, however, disbelieved the evidence of the complainant, and wrote in his judgment:—"The present charge was an after-thought." The accused was, accordingly, acquitted. The gentleman brought counter-charges against Samarjit Singh and a constable of the Barabazar thana, named Bechu Singh. The constables, however, apologised and the case was withdrawn. The papers of this case were ordered by the Honorary Bench to be sent to the Police Commissioner.

It is to be hoped that the Police Commission will take notice of these two cases, which will furnish some evidence of the sense of duty of the native and European police officers concerned. It is not an infrequent sight to see an offending police officer eluding justice by apologising to the complainant. A little time ago a European constable arrested a pleader of the Police Court on the plea of drunkenness. But he had to apologise to the pleader for his conduct. Is a private man, who offends against the police, ever allowed to escape on similar terms?

BASIRHAT SUHRID,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

8. A correspondent of the *Basirhat Suhrid* [Basirhat] of the 21st February draws the attention of the Police Inspector of Basirhat in the 24-Parganas district to two *gundas* who have been employed by somebody to punish his enemies. The men stopped the correspondent on the road as he was coming from office one evening. The place of occurrence was near Metorher.

NAYA YUG,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

9. The *Naya Yug* [Calcutta] of the 21st February draws the attention of the Police Commissioner of Calcutta to the case which was instituted against Babu Jyotis Chandra Basu at the instance of a police constable named Samarjit Singh and which was dismissed by an Honorary Bench of the Calcutta Police Court. After reading the Magistrate's judgment in the case, one sees that it was the Inspector Marklew and the Deputy Commissioner of Police who were more to blame than the constable in bringing this false case. Inspector Marklew detained the gentleman in *hajat* although he had no evidence in support of the charge of drunkenness brought against him by the constable, and the Deputy Commissioner, seeing that the charge of drunkenness would not stand, gratuitously altered it to a different one. The offending officers ought to be properly dealt with.

It was Inspector Marklew who once had to apologise to Babu G. C. Mukherji, now Assistant Registrar of the Calcutta University, for having ill-treated him.

10. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 22nd February says that in Chhaichadaha, Apaipur, Sola Dana, Marichchap, Kaliganj, Hasnabad, Bhaugargati and other places lying on the river and canal route between the Backergunge district and Calcutta, a number of budmashes regularly levy blackmail from the *manjis* of boats carrying rice to Calcutta by representing themselves as chaprasis attached to the River Police or the canal office. If a *manji* refuses to pay he is beaten and oppressed in other ways. All this causes great loss to traders. The authorities should enquire into the matter.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 22nd, 1903.

11. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February says that on the 17th February last a Sonthal woman named Sarada fell at the feet of the Deputy Magistrate of Kalna and said, crying, that her husband Ganes had been killed by the local police. The facts of the case as stated by her were as follows:—"A dacoity having been committed in the house of Rasik Chand of Arjana, the local Daroga, Babu Gaur Gopal Gupta, suspected Ganes and some other Sonthals to have been the offenders, and in order to extort confession ordered his men to continually pour cold water on Ganes's head and fan him on a cold winter night, which benumbed the poor fellow all over and caused his death." The Deputy Magistrate has ordered Sarada to file a petition. Charges like this are frequently heard against the police. The matter should be carefully enquired into.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Feb. 23rd, 1903.

12. The same paper says that great inconvenience results from Babu Manmatha Nath Ghosh, Deputy Magistrate of Rajshahi, holding his Court from 3 to 4 to 8 to 9 P.M. The Court-house is about 3 miles from the town, and few hackney-carriages are to be found near it. This objectionable practice resulted in a serious accident the other day, when an old clerk of the Court named Dwari Babu sustained severe injuries by a fall from the verandah in getting down at night.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

13. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th February hopes that the petition which has been submitted to the High Court by the inhabitants of Pingna and the surrounding villages in the Mymensingh district against the proposed abolition of the Pingna Munsifi will receive favourable consideration. But it is doubted whether the High Court will grant their prayer, seeing that all the criminal work of the place is done in the Tangail Criminal Court. Besides this, the greater the distance of a place from a law-court the better it is for the place itself. Proximity of law courts only increases litigation and ruins people.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1903.

14. Referring to the decision of the High Court that there is nothing so serious in the District Magistrate of Cuttack's judgment in the Puri Raja's case as can justify his being proceeded against by Babu Brajendra Kumar Sil for libel, the same paper says:—What is it but the misfortune of our countrymen that, in the opinion of the High Court, the conduct of the District Magistrate in sullyng the reputation of a person in high position was not at all so serious as to be taken into account?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

15. The same paper says that a boy, a poor apprentice in the Telegraph Department, has been fined by Maulavi Asraf, a Deputy Magistrate of Gaya, to pay Rs. 20 under section 188 of the Indian Penal Code for disobeying the order which was issued by the District Superintendent of Police on the occasion of Lord Curzon's recent visit to the Gaya town (see Report on Native Papers of the 31st January 1903, paragraph 4). An offence under section 188 is committed when a person "knowingly" disobeys "an order promulgated by a public servant lawfully empowered to promulgate such order." But was the order issued by the Superintendent of the Gaya police a lawful order? Was its violation a crime? Was it an offence, punishable under the Penal Code, for

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.

the poor helpless boy to have tried to present a petition to the Viceroy in the hope of receiving a favour? If justice says it was, then a new lexicon must be prepared explaining what barbarity and oppression mean. The poor boy was also kept in *hajut* for seven days. Mr. Bourdillon is earnestly prayed to make an early enquiry into the case.

KHULNA,
Feb. 19th, 1903.

16. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 19th February says that the 1st Munsif of Khulna is in the habit of slighting mukhtars. To pleaders also he sometimes says—"You know nothing of Civil procedure."

HITAVADI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

17. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th February brings serious charges against Babu Bhagavati Charan Mitra, Munsif of Beguserai in the Monghyr district. The Munsif adopts various tricks to dispose of cases as hastily as possible, in order to clear his file. He compels parties, by harassing them, to compromise their cases; orders one of the parties not to enter appearance and then disposes of the case *ex-parte*, and so on. The Munsif is also in the habit of contracting intimacies with parties and even of receiving presents from them. The correspondent also gives cases in support of his statements.

The editor asks the High Court to make a public enquiry into the correspondent's allegations, which are very serious allegations to make against a judicial officer.

NAVA YUG,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

18. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 21st February draws attention to the disparity between the punishment which has been lately inflicted on a mounted constable of the Calcutta police in the High Court Sessions and the punishment which was inflicted on Mr. Ross, Sunderbans Commissioner, some time ago. The constable has been sentenced to three years' imprisonment for taking bribes from drivers of hackney-carriages, whilst Mr. Ross was sentenced only to a year and-a-half's imprisonment on a charge of having embezzled Government's money to the extent of thirty-nine thousand rupees. Laws in this country are made for natives and not for Europeans.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Feb. 24th, 1903.

19. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th February contains the following in its English columns:—
Probable vacancies in High Court Judgeships. There will shortly be vacancies in the High Court on some of the Judges proceeding to England on long leave. Mr. Justice Amir Ali is one of them. Surmises are rife as to whom should the post go to. If the selection of the appointment be made on some rational principles, we have nothing to object to. Mr. Amir Ali got his seat in the High Court as a member of the English Bar, as Dr. Banerjee had got it as a practising Vakil, irrespective of the community from which they come. We hope *ability* should be the main consideration in the filling up of such appointments, and favour should not be bestowed upon an undeserving candidate because he belongs to this or that community.

Mr. Sarada Charan Mitter's appointment to any of the vacancies will give universal satisfaction. Mr. B. L. Gupta's claims are also high if the place of a Civilian Judge is to be filled up, but we hear that the name of Mr. Huda, the District Judge of Rajshahi, is mentioned in connection with one of the posts.

(d)—Education.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 19th, 1903.

20. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 19th February speaks of a persistent rumour that the Bengal Government has received a letter from the Government of India on the Report of the Universities Commission in which the latter Government has deprecated high education among the lower classes, and said that it is owing to its spread among these classes that discontent and disloyalty are visible among educated Indians. The writer is loath to believe that Lord Curzon has really written such a letter. The rumour has, however, produced a commotion in the educated society of Calcutta.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

21. The Dacca correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 20th February complains that the Superintendent of the Government Madrassa in that town has seriously inconvenienced the boys of the institution by discontinuing the supply of drinking water, which cost Government only

14 annas a month, and by ordering the boys to get their drinking water from the street hydrant. The Superintendent also threatened the boys with fines if they should venture to approach him again on the subject.

The Superintendent also takes no notice of the fact that during the midday recess for prayer, most of the boys are seen smoking cigarettes.

22. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st February says that although plague is making havoc in Patna and the residents are leaving the town, it is reported by the *Behar Herald* that Mr. Pedler, Director of Public Instruction, refused the Head Master of the Patna Collegiate School, permission to close the institution. Mr. Pedler should reconsider the matter, in view of the fact that Western science advises the leaving of a place where plague breaks out.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

The last B Class examination in
Dacca town.

23. Referring to the last examination of the first year students of the B Class in Dacca town, the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 22nd February says that a question was set on surveying although first year students of the B Class are not required to study surveying, whilst no question was set on model drawing. These irregularities do not speak well for the authorities and are liable to cause great loss to examinees. If those students who hoped to secure many marks in model drawing get plucked, who will repair their loss?

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 22nd, 1903.

The Vice-Chancellor's Convoca-
tion speech.

24. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd February contains the following in its English columns:—
The Vice-Chancellor's speech is a model speech. He has shown to the lucky young man seated to the right how to meet arguments of critics with a sobriety and dignity becoming one of the ruling class. He never frowns, never uses any unkind word, does not perhaps know the language of slur and sneer, but tries to show that the Commission has been misunderstood, and the critics seized with false alarm. He asks us to accept the recommendation of the Commission with the modifications suggested by Justice Banerjee, and therein he seems to say that 'so far as I am concerned I am actuated by the very best of motives.' The whole speech breathes a generous spirit, and whatever might be its other merits, it shall ever remain a valuable piece of literature, showing the calm and dispassionate way in which for once at least a high placed official met the strokes of the 'irresponsible pen.'

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Feb. 23rd, 1903.

The Contai High English
School.

25. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 24th February says that it is the rule in the Contai High English School in the Midnapore district to enforce the payment of school-fees within the 12th of a month on pain of defaulters being fined and their names struck off the school register. But in the current month of February the school authorities did not accept fees till the 21st instant, because the annual class promotions did not take place within that time. Their motive in this was to realise from students the fees obtaining in the higher classes to which they have been promoted. Were the school authorities right in breaking one of their own rules in order to realise higher rates of fees from students?

NIHAR,
Feb. 24th, 1903.

Mr. Raleigh's Convocation
speech.

26. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th February says that it is for the wise to judge how far Mr. Raleigh's defence of the Resolution of the Education Commission in his last Convocation speech can be called a successful defence. There is one point, however, in that speech which cannot be overlooked by any fair critic, namely the calm, sedate and dispassionate tone in which he answered the objections of his opponents—a tone which presents so striking a contrast to that which the critics of the Commission thought fit to adopt in the Town Hall meeting and elsewhere. This is certainly very creditable to a member of the dominant race, and a thing to be imitated no less by the conquering than by the conquered people.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Feb. 24th, 1903.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

Employment of Musalmans in
the Calcutta Municipality.

27. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that during the Chairmanship of Mr. Bright a few Musalmans were so fortunate as to obtain appointments in the Calcutta Municipality, but since

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

Mr. Greer's appointment to the office, the claims of Musalmans—of even Musalman graduates—have been studiously overlooked. On one occasion no less than fifteen vacancies had to be filled up and several Musalman graduates offered themselves as candidates. Only two of these men were offered two vacant House Sub-Inspectorships on Rs. 40 a month, which they refused on the ground of the difficult nature of the work and the poor pay. There were posts carrying salaries of Rs. 50 and 60 a month, but not one of these was offered to Musalmans.

Again, when Maulvi Syed Samsuddin Haidar, B.A., Assistant Warrant Officer, vacated his office, the post, carrying a salary of Rs. 275, was split up into three Inspectorships on Rs. 50 each, none of which, however, was given to a Musalman.

Maulvi Saddam Abul Masud, B.A., was Inspector of Hackney Carriages on Rs. 100 a month. When he got a Sub-Deputy Collectorship under Government, his post in the Municipality was given not to a Musalman as it would have been just and proper to do, but to a Eurasian, although five Musalman graduates applied for it. Again among the candidates who applied for the vacant post of Head Clerk to the Licence Officer, there were two Musalman graduates; but none of them was fortunate enough to get the appointment.

Why are the claims of competent Musalmans to employment in the Municipality overlooked in this way?

NAVA YUG,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

28. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 21st February asks the Health Officer of the Calcutta Municipality to take more vigorous steps than are now adopted by the Food Inspectors to check the sale of adulterated food articles in the Calcutta bazars. The articles to which he should principally direct his attention are sweetmeats, milk, and ghee.

BASIRHAT SUHRID,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

29. A correspondent of the *Basirhat Suhrid* [Basirhat] of the 21st February has the following complaints against the Baduria Municipality in the 24-Parganas district:—

(1) The Municipal authorities knowingly gave contracts for the repair of the Baduria road to Babu Aghor Nath Mandal, a Commissioner of the Municipality and the Municipal Road-Inspector, in the *binami* of one Surendra Nath Mandal, son of Satis Chandra Mandal, a dealer in wood in Baduria.

(2) Babu Kedar Nath Chaudhuri, a brother of Babu Tarak Nath Chaudhuri, a Commissioner of the Municipality, and living in a joint-family with him, is a contractor of the Municipality. This is surely unlawful.

(3) The Municipality has sanctioned Rs. 300 for the acquisition of land for a new road in the Audarmanik village, although the existing roads there have not been repaired. Even if the Municipality had the construction of a new road in view, it should have opened a thoroughfare from the other side of the Baduria river to the Punda village.

(4) The Municipality has remitted the latrine tax for the Cutcherry buildings of Maharaja Durga Charan Laha and Babus Girija Nath Rai Chaudhuri and Manmatha Nath Rai Chaudhuri, although the poorest wretch within the Municipality has to pay his or her tax.

(5) Dealers in kerosine oil, wood and *golpata* are allowed to sell these articles in the Baduria bazar without licenses.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Feb. 22nd, 1903.

30. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 22nd February complains of water scarcity in the Baultali village near Vikrampur in the Dacca district. The hardship which is caused by this can be removed by the Local Board setting up a pipe in the village. The editor does not know for what purpose the Local Board exists, if it will not remove the wants of the local people.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

31. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th February complains that notwithstanding repeated protests, the Settlement Officers of the Sonthal Parganas are committing *zulm* on the people of that district. Mr. Martin, for instance, makes the zamindars and raiyats supply him gratis with sufficient fuel to make

large fires every morning in order to keep his tent warm. Orders are also issued, and enforced with sheer force, requiring the roads, which are to be used by Settlement Officers, to be set right, so as to look like metalled roads, at the shortest notice. The notice which has been issued to zamindars and the principal raiyats require their personal services for carrying the chains and instruments of the *amins* or the supply of a large number of coolies for the purpose. In places where the Sonthal population is small, Brahmans and other high caste Hindus are being compelled to carry the chains and instruments of the *amins*. The raiyats of Karogram in Madhupur thana protested against this order of the Settlement Officers without effect. A raiyat occupying five cottahs of land has been ordered to supply as many coolies as one occupying five bigahs. But why should raiyats carry the chains of the Settlement Officers or supply coolies for the purpose when the cost of the survey has been paid by the zamindars?

32. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st February says that if Mr. Lusson, Collector of Midnapore, can solve the difficulty

The quarrel between Messrs. Watson and Company and their tenants.

which has arisen between Messrs. Watson and Company and their tenants in a manner which will remove all probability of future disagreement, and will not be detrimental to the interests of either party, he will earn the everlasting gratitude of the people of Midnapore.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

33. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 23rd February says that the

Incomplete survey and settlement in the Midnapore district.

Bengal Tenancy Act gave rise to various disputes between raiyat and zamindar, one of which was the refusal on the part of the former to pay his rent unless the zamindar's cheque contained an elaborate description of the land he held. This dispute could only be settled by a survey and settlement under Chapter X of the Act. About two years ago a number of zamindars deposited costs for the survey and settlement of their zamindaris. Babu Suryya Kumar Das, the late Deputy Collector of the district, finished a part of the work. But since his transfer from Midnapore a year ago the work has not been proceeded with. This is causing great loss to the zamindars, who are unable to realise the rent of the unsurveyed lands.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Feb. 23rd, 1903.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

34. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

Railway extension in India.

18th February says that railway extension is one of the means by which Lord Curzon desires to improve the condition of the country, and, for this purpose, His Excellency has appointed a Railway Commission, which is to report on the best and cheapest way of extending railways to all the principal ports and marts in India. But there is nothing in all this to gladden the hearts of Indians, as it has gladdened those of European merchants. When an Indian thinks of the large export of Indian rice week after week, the thought naturally rises in his mind that if English merchants had had no access to Indian bazars, there would have been no cultivation of jute in place of paddy, and continuous export of rice would not have given birth to the monster of famine in the country. Countries like England and America can benefit by railroads; but railroads only increase the poverty of poor India.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1903.

35. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 19th February says that on the 3rd

Steamer complaints.

February last a boat collided with a steamer (*Vesper*) of the India General Steam Navigation Company near the Khejurtala village within the Madaripur subdivision of the Faridpur district, and a man named Nandaram Pal was drowned. Cases like this frequently occur in East Bengal, Sylhet, Cachar, Upper Assam and other places, in which the India General Steam Navigation Company, the Steamer Navigation Company, the Rivers Navigation Company, and many other steamer companies regularly ply their steamers. The *Serangs* and *Khalasis* of these steamers lord it over everyone, and through their fault and inadvertence many poor men lose their lives. If they fall into any difficulty the companies they serve help them with men, money and legal advice. In the cases which happen to be brought against them they escape punishment in consequence of flaws in the law. European merchants are practically the lords of the country at

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 19th, 1903.

present, and Lord Curzon consults their opinion at every step. Steamer companies belong to these European merchants. Where is then the hope of steamer grievances being removed? Now-a-days it has become difficult for females to travel in steamers without running the risk of their modesty being outraged by steamer servants. All this can, however, be remedied by enforcing order and civility among steamer servants, and punishing them when they commit offences.

(h)—General.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Feb. 17th, 1903.

36. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 17th February takes Mr. Carstairs, the Divisional Commissioner of Burdwan, to task for not having invited the vernacular newspapers in the Burdwan district, viz., the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of Burdwan and the *Pallivasi* of Kalna, to the Burdwan Installation Darbar. When Lord Curzon did not think it a dishonour to invite newspaper editors to the Delhi Darbar, Mr. Carstairs's invitation of the Burdwan papers would not surely have disgraced the Installation Darbar. Mr. Carstairs is known to be a wise and generous officer. He should let the public know the reasons which led him to disregard the example which had but shortly before been set by His Excellency in the Delhi Darbar.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1903.

37. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th February has heard that Mr. Badshah will be appointed to act as the Excise Commissioner of Bengal for some time. Let all Excise Officers be on their guard, for Mr. Badshah's eagle eye is sure to peer into every loophole of the Department and discover what faults there are in it.

SANJIVANI,
Feb. 19th, 1903.

38. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 19th February speaks highly of the agricultural researches of Babu Nritya Gopal Mukharji, M.A., a distinguished student of the Cirencester Agricultural College. While he was in charge of the Agricultural Department of the Sibpur Engineering College, he proved that if the quantity of jute-seeds which an Indian cultivator generally sows on a plot of land is reduced by two-thirds, the jute outturn of the field will be larger, and that the outturn can be doubled by manuring the soil with cowdung. It is the duty of the Agricultural Department to send men to every district to give these instructions to cultivators. Government ought not to send away Nritya Gopal Babu from agricultural work.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

39. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th February says that great dissatisfaction has been caused among the employes of the Bengal Postal Department, under the Post-Master-Generalship of Mr. Badshah, by the supersession of the claims of deserving men to promotion. Babu Surendra Nath Das, a "candidate Superintendent," has, for instance, been appointed Superintendent of the Rajshahi Circle, in supersession of the claims of officers who have served long in the Department, and who fully deserve promotion. The Post-Mastership of Midnapore, carrying a salary of Rs. 150, has been given to a young Eurasian officer who used to draw only Rs. 100 as Sub-Postmaster of the Wellesley Post Office in Calcutta, and who is quite ignorant of the work of a head office, although there were many deserving senior native officers who had a better claim to the post. Another Eurasian officer, Mr. Dubison, has been appointed as Head-Clerk of the Simla Post Office in Calcutta, and a Eurasian lady has been appointed Post-Mistress of Chinsura.

Mr. Badshah has issued a circular prohibiting promotion merely by seniority, and has directed superior officers to pay heed to efficiency in giving promotion. Why the rule of promotion by seniority, which so long worked well, and caused dissatisfaction to no one, has been thus summarily dispensed with is more than one can say. Promotion for efficiency means nothing but the placing of arbitrary powers in the hands of superior officers. Justice can seldom be expected under this rule, especially when the European superior officers are not over fond of the native employes of the Department.

Mr. Badshah never condescends to reply to the complaints of subordinate officers, and reminders are simply ordered to be "filed."

It was this officer, again, who, while Comptroller of the Postal Accounts, increased the expenditure of Government and subjected the clerks under him to serious hardship and inconvenience, by splitting up his Department into three branches for location in three different places in India.

It is hoped Mr. Kisch, the present Director-General of the Post Office, who is an able, upright and just officer, will not shut his eyes to the arbitrary doings of his subordinate.

40. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st February learns from the

The Calcutta Collectorship.

Bengalee newspaper that there is a persistent rumour that on the retirement of Rai Chandra Narayan Sing Bahadur, the Calcutta Collectorship, which has for a long time been held by natives, will be given to Mr. Bayley, a son of Sir Stuart Bayley, *ex-Lieutenant-Governor* of Bengal. With able Indians, of whom there are many in this country, big posts are in most cases like the proverbial grapes which are sour to those who can never enjoy them. Government ought not, therefore, to deprive them of the few sparsely scattered fruits which they are allowed to taste, and place them on the tables of its own kith and kin. If an Englishman gets it again, it will never return to natives.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

41. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st February says that Mr. Badshah,

Mr. Badshah.

who was at one time the Comptroller of the Indian Postal Accounts, and subsequently became the Post-Master-General of Bengal, has now accepted the post of Excise Commissioner, Bengal. Many people say that this has come as a relief to the employes of the Postal Department, and has caused a panic in some other Department. According to Government, Mr. Badshah rendered it a great service by decentralising the Postal Accounts Department. But the employes of the Department say that Mr. Badshah's action has only inflicted hardship on them. The truth is that Mr. Badshah has great administrative powers, and is an officer fit to be placed at the head of the Excise Department.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

III.—LEGISLATION.

42. Referring to the Tea-Cess Bill, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st February writes as follows:—

The Tea Cess Bill.

Almost every European merchant in Calcutta has an interest in the tea industry. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce is practically a Tea-Planters' Association. But besides this Chamber, the tea-industry is represented by two distinct tea associations, one in England and the other in India. Tea-planters are all-powerful now, as indigo-planters were before. They are given every indulgence by the Government, and this influence and opportunity are being used by them in the furtherance of their own interest.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

There is the cooly law and the legal enslavement of coolies for the benefit of tea planters. The highways and railroads, which traverse Assam and Cachar, exist for the benefit of the tea-planters. Mr. Cotton was defeated in his desire to increase the cooly's wages because the tea-planter required to be benefited.

But the tea-planters want more. They want Government to take upon itself the work of selling tea in the country as a malaria curative just as it sells quinine. But they know that Government is not the party to do a gratuitous service. They, therefore, asked it to impose a duty on the export trade of tea, and, with the money which the duty would fetch, to expand the tea-market. Government, that is to say Lord Curzon, the tea-planters' patron, acquiesced in this. It was at the instance of European merchants that the mint was closed to free coinage. And again it is at the instance of merchants that a duty is going to be imposed on tea. The coalition of the Government with the tea-planters will increase the wealth and influence of the latter. An increase in the sale of tea will demand an increase in its production, which also will then engage the attention of the Government for the sake of the tea-cess. Tea-garden *sahibs* will, in consequence, receive greater indulgence from the Government. What will next follow let the reader imagine.

Let the Tea-Cess Bill pass, and all the other Indian industries in the hands of Europeans will demand similar indulgence. Already the coffee planters of Madras

are speaking of coffee legislation and a coffee-cess. The crest-fallen indigo-planters also will not be late in seeking the help of the legislature in reviving their ruined industry. Then there are the lac industry, the rising sugar-cane industry, and lastly the coal industry, whose promoters were the other day encouraged by His Excellency in fluent words when he met them in Jheria, and each of them will demand legislation for its development and welfare. In fine, the state of things which first existed in the days of the John Company, but which was afterwards altered by the Company itself, will reappear. The power of the English merchants will greatly increase with their receipt of the help of the Government, and with the increase of the power of the English merchants will increase the troubles of poor India.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

43. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th February writes as follows:—

The present condition of the Native Princes. Thanks to Lord Curzon, the Nizam of Hyderabad has been deprived of his supremacy over the Berars, and Maharaja Sivaji Rao Holkar has been

made to abdicate his throne. It was a series of similar incidents under Lord Dalhousie which produced discontent among the Native Princes and made them join the Sepoy Mutiny. But the forty-five years that have since elapsed have seen great changes in the condition of the Native Princes, and their humiliation and want of self-respect have become so great in the interval as to excite wonder. It is difficult to-day to ascertain whether the Berar and the Holkar incidents have created any anxiety among Native Princes. Not to speak of others, the Nizam himself, after his loss, has been cheerfully travelling about the country and joining evening parties and other entertainments. And the Holkar's abdication has only made newspapers ask questions of the Government, but not the least reference to it has been made by any Native Prince. Is not all this to be regretted? But what is more to be regretted is that, far from expressing the least discontent at the conduct of the authorities, the Native Princes are proving their utter worthlessness by flattering them in a most shameless manner.

The Holkar's abdication took place on the 31st January. Two days later, the Duke of Connaught was entertained by the Gwalior Chief, and everybody expected that the Scindiah's speech on the occasion would contain some reference to the Holkar, especially as their Highnesses were on very intimate terms with each other. But, instead of containing any such reference, the speech contained passages of which the writer is heartily ashamed. In speaking of the Duke's shooting excursion, the Maharaja said:—

"That His Royal Highness should have shot one of my tigers is as great a satisfaction to me as no doubt it is to the tiger. 'Stripes' is a beast of uncertain habits at this season, and is given to wandering and hard to locate, but the victim of the Duke's unerring aim was evidently a gentleman. Instinct told him the august hand to whom fate had assigned his skin, and to fulfill his destiny he came forth and died."

What could be more humiliating for an allied Prince than to flatter his Sovereign's brother in this way? The Duke himself must have felt ashamed of such flattery. The Scindiah's conduct shows to what worthless and pitiable creatures the Native Princes of India have been reduced? Is not such humiliation of the Native Princes a stain upon British rule?

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1903.

44. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

The condition of the Contai khasmahal raiyats.

18th February says that repeated failure of crops since the year 1900, in the Contai Khasmahal in the Midnapore district, induced the Government to order a remission of a fourth part of the revenue due from the Khasmahal raiyats, under the condition that only those among them who would clear up their dues within the month of September, would get the remission. This condition prevented the great majority of them from availing themselves of the remission. They prayed to the local officer for two or three months' more time to pay their revenues, but most probably their prayer never reached

the ears of the authorities. It is also said that about this time the local officer reported to Government that although the crops had perished, yet the people were earning their livelihood in other ways. Where the representation made by the raiyats of a place about their condition is opposed to the report of the local officer, it is the duty of the Government to seek the opinion of other officers on the subject, and not to take a final step in the matter on the uncorroborated statement of the local officer alone. This year the crops in the Khasmahal having been destroyed, partially by drought and partially by excessive rainfall, the Divisional Commissioner ordered the local officer to hold an enquiry into the matter. It is not known whether the latter has as yet submitted his report. If he had made his report giving a true picture of the condition of the local people, there can be no doubt that Government would not have so long sat still. If he has not submitted any report, Government should depute some other officer to enquire and report in the matter.

Even such petty zamindars as Babu Govinda Prasad Nanda, Babu Digambar Vidyanidhi, Babu Gangadhar Nanda, etc., who own lands near the Khasmahal, have remitted, on the occasion of the celebration of the King-Emperor's Coronation, six months' rents within their zamindaris. Who can measure the hopes which this beneficence on the part of the zamindars has aroused in the minds of the tenants whose landlord is none other than the King-Emperor himself? Will these hopes only perish in their bosoms?

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

45. One Sri Dharmananda Mahabharati writes as follows in the *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 15th February:—

BIKAS,
Feb. 15th, 1903.

"Where are we to stand?" There is no civilised and educated people on the face of the earth, whether elevated by freedom or crushed by subjection, among whom political agitation has been or can ever be completely non-existent. What everybody finds is that such agitation is as much in vogue in States governed despotically as it is in countries where the Government is democratic. It is as strongly and widely prevalent in England and Germany as it is in Madrid, Paris and Cairo. It is not weak even in Russia and Turkey, whose autocratic Sovereigns are extremely opposed to all discussion of political matters by their subjects and detest the leaders of the people. The young King of Norway is a determined enemy of all political agitators in his kingdom, but has political agitation been stopped there on that account? As any attempt to stem a current only increases its force, so any attempt to suppress political agitation, instead of checking the excitement, enthusiasm, and activity of the agitators, only serves to augment them. Even in this unfortunate India, where Government and Police Officers always keep a sharp eye on all political agitators, and where the latter occasionally find themselves in great trouble, political agitation is gradually increasing instead of being stopped. That ruler must be considered a singularly foolish and unlucky person who prohibits all expression of opinion by his subjects generally and in particular by the educated classes among them on measures connected with the administration of their country or shows himself a determined opponent of popular agitation. There can be, of course, no harm in punishing or preventing seditious agitation by means of rigorous legislation, but it ill-becomes a ruler to make any prohibition or to resort to any intimidation if his subjects freely express their views in good faith, for such prohibition or intimidation harms the State instead of doing it good. What the people cannot do openly and publicly they will manage to do covertly and clandestinely. That is why the rise of vigorous political associations like the Carbonari in Italy, the Fenians in Ireland, the Carpet-baggers in America, the Nihilists in Russia, the Dynamiters in Sidja, and the Mulhudas in Turkey and others like them seriously imperil the safety of princes and potentates. Fortunately no such sect exists or is likely to come into existence in India. We are not nevertheless able to always open our minds to the merciful British Government and make it acquainted with our heart's grief. It is true that under English rule we enjoy peace and happiness in various matters, but it is also true that owing to the faults of the officials we are not unoften obliged to suffer much misery and inconvenience. We have no wish to institute a comparison

between our present condition and our condition under Hindu and Musalman Sovereigns in the past ; but, living as we do, under the rule of the British nation, the able, and enlightened and educated master of a world-wide Empire, any discomfort or inconvenience, however small or trifling, seems to us perfectly unbearable. Whatever the country in which the Sovereign may reside and whatever his character and disposition, such of his subjects as are engaged in worldly pursuits and have homes and families of their own must, for a thousand and one reasons, unavoidably suffer some measure of hardship and inconvenience, but it is a matter of great regret and wonder that even those among them who have no home or family of their own, who pay no rents as tenants and no interest as borrowers, and who are neither servants nor candidates for service, are obliged, under the British rule, to put up with oppression, inconvenience, hardship and suffering. We did not so long speak out our minds, nor did we wish to do so, but as a public discussion of the state of the country at an opportune moment may prove beneficial, we propose in this communication to advert to a few secret matters. The matters which we are about to discuss may possess little interest for worldly people, but they are extremely important to the class to which we belong.

Everybody knows that saintly persons who have renounced the world, though they occasionally wander about in cities and villages, naturally desire from time to time to retire into lonely forests for the purpose of spending there at least a portion of their lives, and that, with this object in view, they betake themselves to forests after they have completed their studies with their *gurus*, and visited all sacred places of pilgrimage. In this country and in Hindu and Musalman times, *sannyasis*, *yogis*, dervishes, &c., lived in forests or mountain-caves, and as jungle-life was then considered beneficial, they lived principally in jungles. At the present time the British Government has taken possession of all forests in India, including those situate in the Native States. It has created a Forest Department, and by putting up a "No admission" notice board at the entrance of every such forest, has made it inaccessible to all. Not to speak of living in a forest, even the touching by any person of the dead-wood or the dry leaf of a forest tree is enough to constitute the offences of "trespass" and "theft," and make him liable to be arrested by the Forest police and brought up for trial. How can it be then possible under the English rule for a *sadhu* (saintly person) to retire to a forest and practise the rites of asceticism? What makes him seek admission into a forest is the thought that by living there he may be enabled to merge his self through the aid of external nature in the world of spirit, to get himself intoxicated with divine love, to study the forest vegetation, and thereby to improve the science of *Materia Medica*, to live on forest fruits and roots, and drink the pure spring water, and to engage in prayer and contemplation. But the "No admission" prohibition stares him in the face, and he hastily leaves the place exclaiming "Say, Goddess, where are we to go?"

The *sadhus*, it may be said, may, instead of retiring into forests, set up hermitages in the fields at the extremities of towns and villages, and there live in peace and happiness. This, too, it should be noted with regret, is not unoften subject to the law's interference and oppression. There is the Land Acquisition Act (X) of 1870. It is needless to say that the compensation paid by Government for any land which it takes up under the Act for public purposes is only nominal, a diamond being, not unfrequently, paid for at the rate which would be considered proper in the case of a bit of glass. We had a temple and a hermitage of our own in a field. The land, together with the buildings thereon, was acquired by Government in the interest of a railway line. The buildings were demolished and only the stone image lying in the temple was returned to us. It is better not to refer to the question of compensation in this place. After returning from the forest we had thought of living in the field, but as, thanks to the Land Acquisition Law, not even temples, churches and masjids are always safe, one is forced to ask in sorrow "Say, Goddess, where are we to go?"

The *sadhus*, it may be said, may, instead of retiring into forests, live in towns and villages and do good to others. But this, too, often proves extremely inconvenient. As soon as a *sadhu* wearing his saffron robes appears in a town or village, the police shadows him and dogs his steps. Then it proceeds to

make enquiries regarding his name; as to whether he raises subscriptions, as to the curries which he may be eating with his rice, as to the height, breadth and circumference of his body, as to his literary qualifications, as to whether or no he falls under clause B of section 49 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, as to the number of his hairs, and as to other particulars regarding him. And it so pesters him with such enquiries and interrogatories that it becomes extremely difficult for him to live in a town or village. And in despair he asks—"Say Mother, where are we to go?"

The highest police authorities in the different provinces of India have issued a confidential circular, which empowers the police, as soon as it comes across any person in saffron robes travelling by rail or steamer, to collect all possible information regarding him. If the *sadhu* can read and write either English or Bengali, if he has any newspaper with him, if he smells of the Congress, or if he can make speeches, he is simply doomed. All these little bits will be put together, and the result will be something so formidable that the *sadhu* will find it hard to remain in the place a moment longer. That is why we say "where shall we go?" That is why we are compelled to ask "where are we to stand?"

Woe unto us! Tigers devour us if we go to a forest; snakes bite us if we enter into a hole. There are sharks to eat us up if we betake ourselves to water. The thought drives us mad and blunts our pen. We go about asking anybody and everybody we meet—"Where shall we now stand?"

46. The *Rangalaya* [Calcutta] of the 18th February writes as follows:—

RANGALAYA,
Feb. 18th, 1903.

Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech.

In the course of his Chamber of Commerce speech, Lord Curzon said to the natives of India:—

"The whole industrial and mercantile world is one great field for the tiller to till, and if the man who lives on the spot will not cultivate it with his own spade, then he has no right to blame the outsider who enters it with his plough." That is perfectly true. Still we have something to say. Do native capitalists and traders get the same help from the Government as English capitalists and traders? Do natives possess the same facilities for profitable investment of capital as Europeans? And can natives, under existing circumstances, hold their own against Englishmen?

Europeans have the tea industry in which to invest capital—an industry which Government helps by enacting cooly laws, and which it is proposing to develop by means of a tea cess. Europeans have their indigo industry, which gets from the Government a bounty of Rs. 75,000 a year. And Government has appointed a Commission to enquire if European capital cannot profitably be invested in the cultivation of sugarcane. Europeans have also their trade in foreign-made cotton goods, which Government helps by imposing a duty on goods manufactured in the mills of Bombay and the Central Provinces, and also by placing labour restrictions on those mills in the shape of the Factories' Act. The jute trade, again, which is carried on mainly with foreign capital, is helped in every possible manner by the Government by providing improved communications. On the other hand, the coal-mining industry, which employs both Native and European capital, receives little encouragement from the Government, nay, has to obey a Mining Law, which is enforced by a Mine Inspector. It is useless to multiply examples. Every intelligent man knows how European traders and capitalists are petted by the Government.

We, Natives, have got our national Chamber of Commerce. But how many Viceroys and Lieutenant-Governors have wished it well, or graced it with their presence on festive occasions? Can you frame a law similar to the proposed tea cess law for the protection of the Native weavers and braziers? What, again, has the Government done to prevent the lac trade of Chota Nagpur from passing from the hands of Natives to those of the European Missionaries, who have now monopolized it? Why does the Viceroy boast of things which he cannot do, and which his human nature will not permit him to do?

His Excellency said—"We came here as traders, we developed into conquerors, and long since we were turned into administrators." If Lord Curzon knows this, why does he forget that a shop-keeper cannot shake off his shop-keeping style and propensity, even if he is elevated to the imperial throne? It is true we have no choice but to make fools of ourselves when the powerful

British Government wishes it. But is it polite conduct to look upon us as fools at every step?

So long private firms had been trying to expand the tea market. Henceforward the work will be done by the Government with the help of a Committee.

Again, the indigo industry of Bihar has been under a cloud for some time, and the indigo planters have found themselves in a most precarious condition, but why should they fear when Government itself is ready to look after their interests? Government is incurring large expenses in order to improve the industry, and is providing those who have failed to stick to their industry with service in the Bettiah, Dumraon and Hutwa estates. In these zemindaris even the posts of Circle Officers have now become a monopoly of the indigo planters. We have no objection to the kind Government's supporting its own countrymen. But let not any Viceroy or Lieutenant-Governor brag, after this, that they extend equal treatment to Natives and Europeans.

47. The same paper has the following:—

Lord Curzon.

Speaking as editor and writer, we do not wish to see Lord Curzon much longer in this country. He has monopolized everything. He has monopolized speech; he has monopolized the art of ridicule; he has monopolized the discussion of politics; he has monopolized all pageantry and amusement; he is also a possessor of wealth, intellect, learning, handsomeness of appearance, ready wit, and a capacity for enjoying all the good things of the earth. Whenever we write, we write about the Viceroy; whenever we talk, we talk about the Viceroy; whenever we abuse, we abuse the Viceroy. Is there nobody else in India? Surendra Nath has lost his refulgence; Sisir Kumar has become old; Perozshah Mehta has become speechless; Balgangadhar Tilak is involved in a lawsuit; the Calcutta zemindars and their Association have become moribund and should be sent away to the pinjrapole at Sodepur. The Viceroy alone is everything and everywhere. His Excellency has also got a wife of peerless beauty and intelligence. We really envy Lord Curzon. We therefore pray to His Excellency to go back to his own country and give us time to breathe.

48. Referring to the Viceroy's proposal of establishing, with Mr. Phipps' donation, an agricultural laboratory in Dehra Dun and a Pasteur institute in the Deccan, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 18th February writes as follows:—

We are not yet prepared to express ourselves satisfied with the result of the work of Pasteur institutes. However that may be, if Mr. Pasteur's system is capable of doing good to hydrophobists, the establishment of a Pasteur institute in the Deccan will be a boon to the people of that part of the country. As to the establishment of an agricultural laboratory in Dehra Dun, there can be no doubt that its benefits will not reach the cultivators of the country, but the laboratory will maintain a number of white men.

49. The same paper publishes the following criticism of Lord Curzon's speech at the Jubilee Dinner of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce:—

"The whole industrial and mercantile world is one great field for the tiller to till, and if the man who lives on the spot will not cultivate it with his own spade, then he has no right to blame the outsider, who enters it with his plough." These are the words with which His Excellency sought to answer those who say that the influx of foreign capital into India, and commercial competition with foreign nations are impoverishing the country and draining away its wealth. Foreign capitalists are earning crores of rupees by investing their capital in Indian industries like tea, &c. "Why do not those who plead for the use of Native capital employ it?" asks Lord Curzon. His Excellency's words are no doubt in some measure true. But the real fact is that Indians are not so well up and experienced in the art of money-making as Europeans. Besides this, Indians are not so fond of pursuing wealth and hunting after material luxury as occidental nations. A competence which secures a modest living is enough to satisfy the Indian and draw his mind from mundane to ultramundane matters. Formerly his wants were not so numerous, and he lived happily on a small

RANGALAYA,
Feb 18th, 1903.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Feb. 18th, 1903.

SRI SRI VISHNU-
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA-BAZAR
PATRIKA.

Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech.

income. But British rule has imported new articles of luxury and the British Indian administration is being carried on in a style which is increasing the poverty of the country, so that material want is now seen in every stratum of Indian society. Neither in capital nor in commercial vigour can India compete with Europe. Born and bred up under the genial influence of a tropical climate, Indians never learn to struggle over a want, whilst Europeans strengthened their sinews and became adepts in mundane matters by constantly fighting against a rigorous and uncongenial climate. The weak can never succeed in a competition with the strong. It is the duty of a just and generous Government of India first to save India, weak and uneducated as she is in worldly matters, in her hard commercial fight with the West, and then to teach her the art in which she has to acquire great proficiency, so that she may be able to make a vigorous stand against the occidental nations on the field of commerce. The principle is almost the same as that which enjoins a civilised Government to protect weak people against oppression by the strong. But we are led to believe that His Excellency's principle is that none but the brave deserve to enjoy Earth's gifts. It is our intention to point out to His Excellency that this principle is a violation of one of the primary duties of a Government.

Far from admitting that the influx of foreign capital into India is a cause of her impoverishment, Lord Curzon goes so far as to say that it is "a foolish and a dangerous illusion: foolish, because it ignores the rudiments of economic science; dangerous, because it is calculated to retard the development which it affects to have in view." "Where," asks His Excellency, "without it (British capital), would have been Calcutta? Where would have been Bombay? Where would have been our railways, our shipping, our river navigation, our immense and prosperous trade?" We are at a loss to realise the trend of His Excellency's argument. Does he mean to say that because a small section of the people of India earn something by serving as slaves under English capitalists and merchants engaged in sapping the resources of the country, English capital is increasing the wealth of the country? Does he wish to convince people of the prosperity of India by showing them the Englishmen's railways, the Englishmen's shipping, and the Englishmen's electric light? These exist only for the benefit and convenience of Englishmen. If Englishmen leave India to-day they will be nowhere to-morrow. Long ago a thoughtful Bengali poet wrote about the condition of the country in verses which may be rendered as follows:—

Thy wealth and weal resigned to foreign hands,
Thou wearest on thy bosom iron bands,
With rows of light thy towns and cities shine,
But in eternal darkness thou dost pine.

As a matter of fact, British rule has not increased the wealth and prosperity of the country. Even the *Pioneer* newspaper has, in criticising the speech under notice, said: "It will be still greater task of this century to give India wealth as we have given her peace."

Again, Lord Curzon argued:—"Why should a different argument be applied to India from any other country in the world? When Great Britain poured her wealth into South America and China, I have never heard those countries complain that they were being ruined. It was foreign capital and foreign brains that exploited the industries of Russia, which are now beginning to be a source of such profit to that country. When America floods England, as she is doing, with the resources of her accumulated capital, her amazing inventiveness, and her commercial genius, none of us at home sits down and bewails our cruel lot as being bled by a foreign drain." The weakness of this argument is proved by His Excellency's own action in imposing a duty on bounty-fed sugar. This sugar legislation means nothing but protecting Indian sugar from being driven out of the Indian market by German sugar. The above argument of His Excellency is therefore not worth reproducing. It was folly on his part to compare India with other countries in the above manner. What is nutritious food for a healthy man often acts as poison on a weak patient.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

50. Referring to Lord Curzon's speech at the public dinner of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 20th February writes as follows :—
Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech.

One of Lord Curzon's good qualities is that His Excellency never misses an opportunity of replying to adverse criticisms of his words or actions. The *Bengalee* newspaper had charged him with being under the influence of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, and some English newspapers had accused him of belauding the English nation to the neglect of the Scotch and the Irish. It is clear from His Excellency's speech that these charges had cut him to the quick. Much may be expected of His Lordship if he continues to pay such attention to criticism. Whatever else His Lordship may or may not have done during his administration, he has made it clear at every step that press criticisms of his Government's actions are not beneath his notice. The press is grateful to His Excellency for this consideration.

In the course of his speech, His Excellency characterised native capitalists as timid, and said that it was their disinclination to employ capital for the improvement of native arts and industries that flooded the country with foreign manufactures. It is true the people of this country do not endeavour to employ their capital profitably. But is the fault entirely theirs? Do native capitalists get the same opportunities for employing capital as foreign capitalists? Their timidity would certainly have been to blame if they had been given equal opportunities with foreign capitalists and if they had still held back their hoards.

In every case in which native capitalists have endeavoured to employ capital, they have been confronted by dangers ahead. The authorities seldom help them, never give them facilities for the necessary training, and do nothing to protect their industries. What native capitalist can, under such conditions, venture to invest capital in the more profitable industries?

To take one instance. In 1891, Mr. Cama of Bombay started a steamer service between Bombay and the China and Japan ports. But the P. and O. Company reduced their freight in order to drive away Mr. Cama. The latter sought the intervention of the Secretary of State for India. And Lord Curzon, who was then Under-Secretary for India, may well remember what the fate of Mr. Cama's appeal was.

It is easy to advise people to employ capital in mills, factories and industries, but not so easy to reduce the advice to practice. Lord Curzon knows what loss the exchange difficulty has inflicted on many Indian mills. Want of training is another drawback for the Indians. Native capital would have employed itself in the tea, indigo and jute industries, and also in the mica, coal and gold mining industries which now depend almost entirely on foreign capital, if Government had looked after the interests of native capital as much as it does after those of foreign capital. But, in spite of all the disadvantages to which native capital is subject, such capital has been invested in mills in Nagpur, Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sulkea and Budge-Budge, and also in the tea, coal and indigo industries. It is not any encouragement from the Government, but the expansion of foreign trade and the large profits that trade brings, that have induced native capitalists to undertake these ventures.

The Bombay mill-owners are carrying on their business under a serious disadvantage, because the Government currency policy has inflicted great loss on them. Native capitalists deserve encouragement and not censure, for the little they are able to do under their present disabilities and disadvantages. The majority of the population is poor, and poor men cannot have the courage to invest their little fortunes in uncertain ventures under a Government whose policy is unsettled and which can, at any time, by a mere stroke of the pen, do away with all the chances of profit that invested native capital may possess.

As for industrial training, the people of this country receive no encouragement from the Government. In 1897, on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of Her late Majesty's reign, it was proposed to establish a Technical College in Bengal. But the idea was not liked by the Government. One of the Secretaries to the Government of Bengal wrote to the then Maharaja of

Darbhanga that if such a College were established, the men trained in it would clamour for appointments. The idea had, therefore, to be given up.

It is easy to censure the people of this country, but it is a very different thing to render them practical help and encouragement. Do Indian artisans and manufacturers enjoy the same facilities and opportunities that people trading with foreign manufactures in this country enjoy? The truth is that Indian arts and industries can still revive if they get the Government's support. It ought also to be remembered that a people cannot become self-supporting in a day, and that no nation invests its capital in a foreign country unless it knows that the Government of that country is strong and willing enough to protect its interests.

His Excellency's statement about the improvement of Calcutta is alarming. The only redeeming feature of this portion of his speech was the information he gave to the public about the appointment of an expert who is coming out from England to deal with the smoke nuisance in Calcutta and the statement that electric tramways would be extended.

51. The same paper publishes the following letter which was issued by the Magistrate of Nadia:—

Collection of funds for proclamation festivities in Nadia.

The celebration of His Majesty Edward VII's Coronation will be held on the 1st January 1903. His Excellency the Governor-General has ordered that everybody must rejoice, feed the poor, and entertain school children on that auspicious day, and that all Government office buildings should also be illuminated on the occasion. His Excellency has also expressed himself to the effect that the cost of the rejoicing should be borne by the loyal Indian people. You are therefore requested to send in your subscription without delay to the Subdivisional Officer of Ranaghat and the Chairman of the Santipore Municipality. Dated, the Nadia Magistracy, 1902.

C. A. RADICE,
Magistrate.

HITAVADI,
Feb. 20th, 1903.

The editor asks if the Viceroy will not ask for an explanation from Mr. Radice for the false statements he has made in the above letter. How sweet are the words "everybody," "must," and "order"! Who, by the bye, is this Mr. Radice? Is he the same officer who received punishment at Sir Antony MacDonnell's hands for committing oppression in Cuttack?

52. Referring to Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 21st February writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's Chamber of Commerce speech.

Somebody had somewhere said that our Viceroy, Lord Curzon, was guided by the advice of the Chamber of Commerce—nay, was entirely under the influence of that body. Lord Curzon thought fit to give a reply to this in his Chamber of Commerce speech. His reply was a covert thrust made with a half-suppressed smile. Look at the manner of his reply:—

"I cannot remember the occasions on which you have behaved as a despotic master or I as the pliant victim; nor am I quite sure that it tallies with the picture of myself as ordinarily drawn."

There are pungency, high-mindedness and also a touch of self-praise in these words. They show that Lord Curzon has an ear for everything, a fact which is fortunate for his subjects. That His Excellency vouchsafes a reply to every trifle only shows that he is a magnanimous man.

There would have been no harm, however, if his Lordship had not thought fit to give a reply in the present case. He may not be under the thumb of the Chamber of Commerce, but he is bound to acknowledge the importance of that body. Possessed of power as he himself is, he cannot refuse to listen to the words of a body which, too, is possessed of great power. There would, therefore, be no wonder if Lord Curzon ever acted on the advice of the Chamber of Commerce. It would rather be a matter of congratulation and a hopeful sign for us if he did so. For, in that case, we might expect that if we some day became as powerful as the Chamber of Commerce, His Excellency would listen to our advice also. The smallest hint from the powerful is never ineffectual.

BANGAVASI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

Lord Curzon, we request you to listen to the advice of the Chamber and to act upon that advice in future, if you have not done so already.

The last words of His Excellency's speech were that if the trade, industries and manufactures of the country were to be improved, the people must exert themselves. According to His Excellency's calculation, 825 crores of rupees are lying hoarded up and idle in this country. He also called those people foolish and dangerous who think that the country is growing poorer by reason of foreign capital draining away the country's wealth. In support of his contention, Lord Curzon cited the cases of America, China and Egypt, which employed large amounts of foreign capital in their trade and industries, but never complained of such capital draining away their national wealth or reducing them to poverty.

But, oh, that we should be compared with America, Egypt and even moribund China! Admitting that the employment of foreign capital benefits Indians as well as the foreign capitalists, what does India retain in the long run? How many highly-paid foreign officials are there in America, Egypt and China? How many foreigners have America, China and Egypt to provide with pensions? With what frequency do famine and plague occur in those countries? The truth is that the profit India derives from foreign capital is dissipated in many ways and she has ultimately little left even to live upon. We do not know who are the Indian millionaires that have got fortunes buried in the earth. But so far as the ordinary Indian is concerned, he can hardly procure enough to keep body and soul together, much less to save. It may be possible for the Indian to save, only if he takes the resolution to wear barks of trees as his apparel, to eat his food from the bare earth and lie down for his night's rest on the bare ground rather than use foreign clothing, foreign plate, and foreign clothing, but not otherwise. The truth is that no comparison is possible between India on the one hand and China, Japan or America on the other.

BASUMATI,
Feb. 21st, 1903.

53. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 21st February writes as follows:—

In his Chamber of Commerce speech Lord Curzon passed a severe stricture in connection with a statement which His Excellency had seen repeated "in some newspaper * * that I (the Viceroy) was supposed to be under the thumb of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce," and sarcastically said: "However that may be, Sir, the charge of being under your thumb has, I am glad to say, not prevented me from being present at your table." We ask His Excellency, with all deference, has he never done anything solely with the interest of the Chamber in his mind? Has he forgotten that simply to please the Chamber he had to act against the dictates of his conscience and postpone the proposed enhancement of the Assam cooly's wage? And is it not for the benefit of the Chamber alone that he is going to impose a duty on tea?

Again, His Excellency said that his scheme for the improvement of the interior of Calcutta had been sent back by the Secretary of State for India with instructions to revise it in consultation with the local bodies, and that, according to this instruction, he will take the opinions of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Trades' Association. Does this not amount to saying that he will take the views of the Calcutta merchants alone in this matter? The opinions of those who form the bulk of the population of the town will count for nothing. His Excellency did not mention the name of even a single native association whose opinion he would seek in the matter.

BIKAS,
Feb. 22nd, 1903.

54. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 22nd February contains an article highly

Mr. Bell, Magistrate of Backergunge. eulogistic of Mr. Bell, Magistrate of Backergunge.

PRATIVASI,
Feb. 23rd, 1903.

55. The *Rajshahi* correspondent of the *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd

February speaks in eulogistic terms of Mr. Fischer, the District Judge of Rajshahi, who recently cleared the debts of one of his *chaprasis* from his own pocket, and saved his properties from being sold off. Once he saw a poor Musalman girl, clothed in rags and shaking like a reed, in the cold, passing in front of his residence. He called her and learned from her that her mother was sick and her father blind, and that she was out begging for their maintenance. He gave her a blanket to protect herself from the cold

and some money for her family, and asked her to see him every Sunday in his house. It is Englishmen like Mr. Fischer, and not Clive and Hastings, who have strengthened the foundation of British rule in India.

56. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 28th February publishes the following in its English columns:—

The case of the late Sharistadar of the Bogra Collectorate.

We welcome the news that Moulvi Baharuddin Ahmed, the Sharistadar of the Bogra Collectorate, who was told off his post by the District Collector so far back as December 1898, has at last moved the Viceroy into granting him a post of greater power and emolument than the one he formerly held. There is also a halo of romance about the affair. The little children of the aggrieved Sharistadar told the Viceroy their tale of misery in a letter addressed to His Excellency, who took pity upon them and sent the Sharistadar Rs. 500, of course from his own pocket, to relieve their distress. His Excellency looked up the papers and found out that the party was really wronged. By way of compensating his loss, he asked the Local Government to make him a Deputy Collector of the last grade.

Apart from the element of romance in the story, this spirit of granting a ready audience to an aggrieved party, however humble his position, is a noble trait of character in our present Viceroy, whose infirmities, it must be admitted, are those of a noble mind. We are no doubt grateful to His Excellency for the good turn done to individuals, but we take this opportunity of telling His Excellency that it will be a poor substitute for a spirit of justice and fair play towards the whole nation, which every one expects from a Viceroy of his independence and breadth of views. These individual instances of kindness and generosity will do very little to entitle him to our respect and gratitude, if His Excellency does not take a firm stand against the policy of depriving the children of the soil of a share in the Government of their country, a policy which finds so much favour with latter-day Anglo-Indian statesmen. We have no sympathy with those patriots with whom patriotism means a foolish blindness to our own faults and who go to the length of asserting that our conduct everywhere is above board, but we should at the same time confess that we fail to see the wisdom of the policy which will not allow us to go to waters because we cannot swim well.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Feb. 25th, 1903.

URIYA PAPERS.

57. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 14th February states that the sky is clear, and the weather seasonable. This is considered favourable to the mango crop.

The weather in Orissa.

58. The same paper states that the health of the Cuttack town is good.

The health of Orissa.

The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 11th February states that cholera is raging virulently in the Balasore town and that the Balasore Municipality has neglected to take steps to check the mortality due to that cause. The same paper also reports that small pox has broken out in the Balasore district. The Puri correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* states that four or five men died of cholera in the Puri town.

59. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack], of the 14th February, approves of the appointment of Babu Rajkisore Das, a Deputy Collector, as Manager of the Puri temple, and hopes that this will prove a move in the right direction.

The new Manager of the Puri temple.

61. Referring to the appointment of the Puri Temple Commission, the same paper hopes that the Commission will see their way to suggest such measures as will not

on the one hand disturb the *Sebakas* of the temple by transferring their duties to the Police and harass the pilgrims by interfering with their free devotions on the other.

The Puri Temple Commission.

Price of rice in the Balasore district.

60. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 12th February states that rice is cheaper in the Balasore district.

62. The Nilgiri correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* and the *Uriya and Navasamvad* states that the young Raja of Nilgiri has shown extraordinary skill in inventing a little

A machine for trapping tigers.

UTKALDIPIKA
Feb. 14th, 1903

UTKALDIPIKA,
URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
Feb. 11th, 1903.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA,

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Feb. 12th, 1903.

UTKALDIPIKA,
URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

wooden and iron machine by which he has succeeded in bagging four tigers alive within the short period of four months.

UTKALDIPKA,
Feb. 14th, 1903.

63. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 14th February approves of the resolution of the Acting Lieutenant-Governor to refer the recommendations of the Universities Commission to some of the representative members of the Indian society for examination and report.

The Bengal Government's action on the Universities Commission's Report.

The writer is glad that His Honour's selections are happy ones.

UTKALDIPKA.

64. The same paper is strongly of opinion that the Jubilee Park near the Cuttack Municipal Office is the best site for the foundation of the proposed Public Library and Town Hall. The writer suggests that the Union Club may also have its permanent abode at that

The question of the proposed Public Library and Town Hall in Cuttack town.

place. The Municipality may open out the park on three sides by connecting it with the three existing roads on the south, east and west, at a small cost, the north being already open.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 28th February, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.